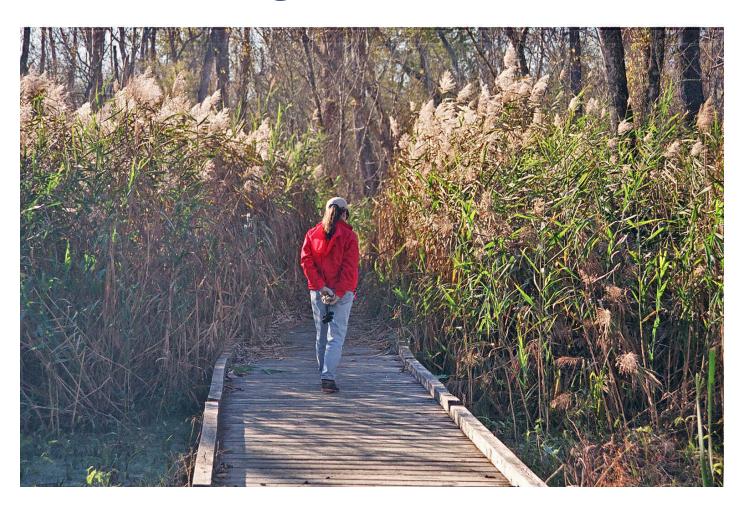
Sources of Assistance to Landowners with Phragmites Invasions



Potential Sources of Assistance to Landowners: "Slim Pickens"

Free Technical Advice

DCR - Division of Natural Heritage, USDA Extension, TNC...

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program - WHIP

Administered by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Virginia Invasive Species Council

Contact DCR or Secretary of Natural Resources

New Legislation to Provide Phragmites Cost-share Program?

Contact an elected official near you

Follow the RPAC Model

Band together with other private landowners & pool resources

Free Advice From DCR Division of Natural Heritage staff:

- Dot Field Eastern Shore (757) 787-5576
- Kevin Heffernan Richmond (804) 786-9112
- Curtis Hutto Richmond (804) 692-0479
- Rick Myers Richmond (804) 371-6204

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- USDA-NRCS administered Farm Bill Program
- Landowners enter into 5- to 10-year contracts with NRCS
- Costs for practices are reimbursed at a pre-approved perunit rate
- Phragmites (and other invasive species control project applications) are considered by State Technical Committee WHIP Sub-committee for funding
- Apply at USDA Service Center NRCS Office

Virginia Invasive Species Council

- Created by Virginia General Assembly in 2003
- Council consists of Secretary of Natural Resources
 (Chairman) plus eight State Agency Directors (VDACS, DCR, VIMS, VMRC, DOF, DGIF, DOH, VDOT)
- Receives information and advice from Advisory
 Committee comprised of private and public stakeholders
- Operates with \$0.00 budget; DCR provides staff support
- Will "sunset" in 2006 unless reauthorized by General Assembly

Virginia Invasive Species Council

Purpose is to:

- Develop a Statewide Invasive Species Strategic / Management Plan for Virginia
- 2. Foster state agency communication and coordination on invasive species issues
- 3. Make recommendations to General Assembly on invasive species issues

Phragmites Control State Cost-share Program

- Virginia does not have a program
- Maryland has one
- Created by MD state legislature in 1996
- Administered by MD Dept. of Natural Resources
- Covers specified coastal counties
- Provides up to 50% reimbursement for control costs to individual landowners

Landowner Organizations and Community Involvement: The RPAC Model

- RPAC = Rappahannock Phragmites Action Committee
- Partnership of private citizens and landowners, state and federal governments, and non-governmental organizations
- Initiated by private citizens in Essex County, Virginia
- Objective is to halt the spread of invasive populations of Phragmites in the lower Rappahannock River watershed
- Provides help with identification, monitoring, control, and financial assistance
- Contact: Tidewater RC&D at (804) 443-1118